UNITED
NATIONS

S

Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1998/538
19 June 1998

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 18 JUNE 1998 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to transmit herewith a communiqué on India and Pakistan issued by the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of eight major industrialized democracies and the representative of the European Commission following their meeting in London on 12 June.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) John WESTON
Permanent Representative
of the United Kingdom of Great Britain
and Northern Ireland
to the United Nations

98-17412 (E) 220698

/...

Annex

Communiqué issued on 12 June 1998 by the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of eight major industrialized democracies and the representative of the European Commission

We, the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of eight major industrialized democracies and the representative of the European Commission, held a special meeting in London on 12 June 1998 to consider the serious global challenge posed by the nuclear tests carried out by India and Pakistan. Recalling the statement issued by our Heads of State or Government on 15 May, and emphasizing the support of all of us for the communiqué issued by the five permanent members of the Security Council in Geneva on 4 June and Security Council resolution 1172 (1998) of 6 June 1998, we condemn the nuclear tests carried out by India on 11 and 13 May 1998 and by Pakistan on 28 and 30 May. These tests have affected both countries' relationships with each of us, worsened rather than improved their security environment, damaged their prospects of achieving their goals of sustainable economic development and run contrary to global efforts towards nuclear non-proliferation and nuclear disarmament.

The negative impact of these tests on the international standing and ambitions of both countries will be serious and lasting. They will also have a serious negative impact on investor confidence. Both countries need to take positive actions directed towards defusing tension in the region and rejoining the international community's efforts towards non-proliferation and nuclear disarmament. Urgent action is needed both to halt an arms race on the subcontinent, which would divert resources from urgent economic priorities, and to reduce tension, build confidence and encourage peaceful resolution of the differences between India and Pakistan, so that their peoples may face a better future.

With a view to halting the nuclear and missile arms race on the subcontinent, and taking note of the official statements of the Governments of India and Pakistan that they wish to avoid such an arms race, we consider that India and Pakistan should immediately take the following steps, already endorsed by the Security Council:

- Stop all further nuclear tests and adhere to the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty immediately and unconditionally, thereby facilitating its early entry into force;

- Refrain from weaponization or deployment of nuclear weapons and from the testing or deployment of missiles capable of delivering nuclear weapons, and enter into firm commitments not to weaponize or deploy nuclear weapons or missiles;

- Refrain from any further production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices and participate, in a positive spirit and on the basis of the agreed mandate, in negotiations with other States in the Conference on Disarmament for a

Fissile Material Cut-Off Convention with a view to reaching early agreement;

- Confirm their policies not to export equipment, materials and technology that could contribute to weapons of mass destruction or missiles capable of delivering them, and undertake appropriate commitments in that regard.

We believe that such actions would be strongly in the interest of both countries.

With a view to reducing tension, building confidence and encouraging peaceful resolution of their differences through dialogue, India and Pakistan should:

- Undertake to avoid threatening military movements, cross-border violations, including infiltrations or hot pursuit, or other provocative acts and statements;

- Discourage terrorist activity and any support for it;

- Implement fully the confidence- and security-building measures they have already agreed to and develop further such measures;

- Resume without delay a direct dialogue that addresses the root causes of the tension, including Kashmir, through such measures as early resumption of talks at the Foreign Secretary level, effective use of the hot-line between the two leaders and realization of a meeting between Prime Ministers on the occasion of the tenth summit meeting of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) scheduled for next month;

- Allow and encourage progress towards enhanced Indo-Pakistani economic cooperation, including through a free trade area in South Asia.

We encourage the development of a regional security dialogue.

We pledge actively to encourage India and Pakistan to find mutually acceptable solutions to their problems and stand ready to assist India and Pakistan in pursuing any of these positive actions. Such assistance might be provided, at the request of both parties, in the development and implementation of confidence- and security-building measures.

The recent nuclear tests by India and Pakistan do not change the definition of a nuclear weapon State in the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, and, therefore, notwithstanding those tests, India and Pakistan do not have the status of nuclear weapon States in accordance with the Treaty. We continue to urge India and Pakistan to adhere to the Treaty as it stands, without any conditions. We shall continue to apply firmly our respective policies to prevent the export of materials, equipment or technology that could in any way assist programmes in India or Pakistan for nuclear weapons or for ballistic missiles capable of delivering such weapons.

It is our firm view that the nuclear tests by India and Pakistan reinforce the importance of maintaining and strengthening the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons as the cornerstone of the non-proliferation regime and as the essential foundation for the pursuit of nuclear disarmament. We all, nuclear weapon States and non-nuclear weapon States alike, reiterate our determination to fulfil the commitments relating to nuclear disarmament under article VI of the Treaty. These commitments were reaffirmed at the 1995 Review and Extension Conference of the Parties to the Treaty and included the determined pursuit by the nuclear weapon States of systematic and progressive efforts to reduce nuclear weapons globally, with the ultimate goal of eliminating those weapons. We note the progress already made in this direction and welcome the firm intention both of the United States of America and of the Russian Federation to bring START II into force, and to negotiate and conclude a START III agreement at the earliest possible date. We also note contributions made by other nuclear weapon States to the reductions process. We call upon all States to sign and ratify the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty rapidly to ensure its entry into force, and welcome the determination of the member Governments of the group of eight that have not yet ratified the Treaty to do so at the earliest possible date. We continue to look for the accession to the Treaty of the remaining countries that are not yet parties to it.

We call on all the member States of the Conference on Disarmament to agree on the immediate opening of the cut-off negotiations at the Conference on Disarmament.

Both India and Pakistan face enormous challenges in developing their economies and building prosperity. However, the recent nuclear tests have created an atmosphere of regional instability that will undermine the region's attractiveness to both foreign and domestic investment, damaging business confidence and the prospects for economic growth. The diversion of their resources to nuclear and other weapons programmes displaces more productive investment and weakens their ability to pursue sound economic policies. It calls into question the commitment of both Governments to the reduction of poverty and undermines regional cooperation between SAARC countries on social and economic issues. In line with the approach to development set out in the Naples, Lyon, Denver and Birmingham communiqués, we call on both Governments to reduce expenditure that undermines their objective of promoting sound economic policies that will benefit all members of society, especially the poorest, and to otherwise enhance cooperation in South Asia.

We believe it is important that India and Pakistan are aware of the strength of the international community's views on their recent tests and on these other subjects. Several among us have, on a unilateral basis, taken specific actions to underscore our strong concerns. All countries should act as they see fit to demonstrate their displeasure and address their concerns to India and Pakistan. We do not wish to punish the peoples of India or Pakistan as a result of actions by their Governments, and we will therefore not oppose loans by international financial institutions to the two countries to meet basic human needs. We agree, however, to work for a postponement in consideration of other loans in the World Bank and other international financial institutions to India and Pakistan, and to any other country that conducts nuclear tests.

We pledge to convey the common views of our Governments on these matters to the Governments of India and Pakistan with a view to bringing about early and specific progress in the areas outlined above. We plan to keep developments under review and to continue the process of pursuing the goals on which we are all agreed.

UNITED NATIONS **S**

Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1998/539
19 June 1998

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 19 JUNE 1998 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF GREECE TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

In view of the public statements made yesterday by the Prime Minister of Turkey and other Turkish officials containing threats against Greece and Cyprus on the pretext of a training flight of four Greek air force jets to Cyprus, my Government has instructed me to bring to your attention the continuing provocative attitude of the Turkish Government and its systematic practice of threatening the use of force in connection with Greek-Turkish relations and the Cyprus problem.

In this context, I would like to reiterate to you the firm commitment of the Greek Government to a solution of the Cyprus problem within the framework of the relevant resolutions of the Security Council, as well as to the improvement of Greek-Turkish relations on the basis of and in accordance with international law and treaties, as stated in the attached aide-mémoire.

I would be grateful if you could bring the present letter and its annex to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(Signed) Christos ZACHARAKIS
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Greece
to the United Nations

Annex

Aide-mémoire dated 19 June 1998

1. Flights of Greek air force jets to Cyprus have repeatedly taken place, in the past, upon invitation of the Government of Cyprus. It is within this framework that a short training visit of four aircraft was carried out to the airbase of Paphos.

2. The said visit can hardly be regarded as a threat, taking also into consideration the fact that Greece does not threaten anybody and does not intend to use or to threaten to use force. On the contrary, it is Turkey who constantly violates the territorial integrity of the Republic of Cyprus with numerous overflights and landings of military aircraft on the occupied northern part of the island and keeps resorting to threats of use of force, completely ignoring the well-known proposals that have been submitted by President Clerides since 1993 with regard to the total demilitarization of Cyprus.

3. It should also be noted that, while the Turkish Government pretends to be extremely concerned about security and stability in the region, it has rushed to reject the proposal made by the Greek Foreign Minister for the establishment of a no-flight zone over Cyprus.

4. In the light of the above, the allegations of the Turkish side concerning any link between the aforementioned training visit and the future installation of the defensive S-300 missile system in Cyprus are utterly arbitrary.

5. The Greek Government fails to perceive the real meaning of these Turkish reactions and threats, which obviously conceal other motives and aims. In this regard, it is worth remembering Turkey's tendency to provoke artificial tensions on the eve of important meetings of the European Union, where Turkey's relations with Europe are being discussed.

6. Greece remains committed to a solution to the Cyprus problem based on the relevant Security Council resolutions. In particular, the Greek Government firmly insists on the implementation of provisions regarding the gradual disarmament of Cyprus, aiming at its total demilitarization.

7. Finally, Greece wishes to reiterate its determination to continue to seek improvement in Greek-Turkish relations in accordance with international law and treaties.

UNITED
NATIONS

S

Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1998/540
19 June 1998

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON THE UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN THE CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

I. INTRODUCTION

1. By paragraph 9 of its resolution 1159 (1998) of 27 March 1998, the Security Council decided to establish the United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic (MINURCA), with effect from 15 April 1998.

2. In paragraph 15 of the resolution, the Security Council requested me to keep it regularly informed and to submit a report by 20 June 1998 on the implementation of the mandate of MINURCA, on developments in the Central African Republic, on progress towards the implementation of the commitments expressed in the letter of 8 January 1998 to me from the President of the Central African Republic and on the implementation of the Bangui Agreements and the National Reconciliation Pact, including on commitments related to ensuring the country's economic recovery. By paragraph 16, the Council requested me to include in the report information on the progress made by the Government of the Central African Republic in adopting an electoral code, setting a date for legislative elections and developing specific plans for the conduct of legislative elections, and to make recommendations on the future role of the United Nations in the legislative election process.

3. The present report provides the Security Council with an update on developments since my previous report on the situation in the Central African Republic, dated 23 February 1998 (S/1998/148).

II. STATUS OF DEPLOYMENT OF THE MISSION

4. The establishment of MINURCA on 15 April 1998 was marked by a brief military ceremony transferring authority from the Inter-African Mission to Monitor the Bangui Agreements (MISAB) to MINURCA. On 16 April, my Special Representative, Mr. Oluyemi Adeniji, and the Chairman of the International Monitoring Committee, General Amadou Toumani Touré, jointly presided over a political transfer ceremony. On the same day, the Special Representative met with President Ange-Félix Patassé to explain to him the mandate and concept of MINURCA operations.

5. Despite the unusually tight schedule laid down by resolution 1159 (1998), MINURCA became operational on 15 April thanks to the efforts of a transition team of United Nations military planners, logisticians, communications specialists and administrative staff, who arrived in Bangui on 4 April to set up the integrated headquarters of the new Mission. Since the establishment of the Mission, its operational capacity has continued to improve. As at 15 June 1998, total troop strength stood at over 1,200 personnel, with contingents from Burkina Faso, Canada, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, France, Gabon, Mali, Senegal and Togo, out of the maximum strength of 1,350 personnel authorized by the resolution. A contingent from Egypt is expected to join MINURCA by the end of June. With regard to the civilian personnel, 73 of the approved total of 106 international staff have been deployed, with most of the remaining staff expected to arrive in Bangui shortly. However, of 24 civilian police trainers, only 8 have so far been deployed, owing to the late response of contributing countries.

III. POLITICAL ASPECTS

6. Since the establishment of MINURCA, the overall political situation in Bangui has been generally calm, but volatile. The process of national reconciliation launched by the Bangui Agreements (S/1997/561) received significant impetus from the adoption on 4 March 1998 of the National Reconciliation Pact by all Central African political parties. The Pact banned the use of force as an instrument of achieving political power, emphasizing that power should be attained only through elections, and the signatories pledged to work for the rehabilitation and reconstruction of the country. The Pact made provision for the establishment of a Monitoring and Arbitration Committee (Comité de suivi et d'arbitrage) to follow up on the implementation of the Pact and the Bangui Agreements and to arbitrate in case of disputes. Accordingly, the Committee was set up by a presidential decree on 26 March 1998. While the Committee, which consists of representatives of the Government, the opposition and civil society, is still in the process of organizing itself, it is emerging as an entity that can play a constructive reconciliation role. At the request of my Special Representative, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has been providing much-needed administrative and logistical support to the Committee.

7. Another important provision of the Bangui Agreements was implemented with the adoption on 30 April 1998 of the Press Code by the National Assembly and the establishment by a presidential decree dated 27 May 1998 of a commission to oversee the freedom of the press (Haut Conseil de la communication). Those steps towards freedom of the press are significant, in particular in view of the forthcoming legislative elections.

8. In the area of governance, during several meetings with Government representatives the Special Representative stressed the importance the international community attaches to respect for human rights, as well as transparency and accountability of Government. In that context, the Government of the Central African Republic is preparing to hold a conference on good governance in Bangui in the next few months with funding from UNDP. Furthermore, the office of my Special Representative has been providing advice to the

authorities of the Central African Republic and facilitating technical assistance in the areas of good governance and the rule of law, pursuant to paragraph 14 (e) of resolution 1159 (1998).

9. In a welcome development, Canada, Côte d'Ivoire, France, Gabon, Kenya, Senegal, Togo and the United States of America have constituted themselves as the Group of Friends of the Central African Republic. The Group has developed a number of indicators for necessary reforms, focusing on the need for progress in preparing for the elections, in the restructuring of security forces and in the conclusion of agreements with the Bretton Woods institutions. Similar groups have played a very constructive role in other conflict situations. However, the effectiveness of the Group may be somewhat limited by the fact that only two of its members have diplomatic representatives in the Central African Republic.

10. Late last year, Mr. Charles Massi, then the Minister of Mines, was dismissed from his post for allegedly waiving taxes owed by a diamond purchasing company, and criminal charges were levelled against him. In the meantime, Mr. Massi resigned from the ruling party and registered his own political party. He has been arguing that the charges against him and his subsequent house arrest were politically motivated. My Special Representative met with him twice and urged President Patassé to order the lifting of the house arrest of Mr. Massi. On 12 June, Mr. Massi was acquitted of all charges by the Constitutional Court.

11. Members of the Security Council are aware of the invaluable role played in the Central African Republic by MISAB, as well as by the International Mediation Commission and the International Monitoring Committee, respectively under the chairmanship of the President of the Republic of Gabon, El Hadj Omar Bongo, and General Touré, former Head of State of Mali. In a letter dated 30 April 1998, General Touré informed me of the end of MISAB and the International Monitoring Committee, but expressed his determination to continue to follow the situation in the Central African Republic. I welcome the continued efforts of regional leaders, who made such crucial contributions to restoring stability in Bangui and to promoting political reforms in the Central African Republic.

12. Notwithstanding those encouraging developments, a number of serious political difficulties remain. Divisions and distrust, including along ethnic and regional lines, continue to persist in Central African society. While the creation in February 1997 of a Government of National Unity, which included several opposition parties, was a major step towards reconciliation, the Government has remained a somewhat uneasy coalition, with recurring accusations from opposition parties that their ministers have been given less important responsibilities. The so-called Group of 11 opposition parties, which currently consists of 9 parties, has continued to threaten to withdraw from the Government. While those threats have not been carried out, they are indicative of a continuing lack of much-needed confidence among various political groups in the country.

Preparation for elections

13. While some progress has been made in preparing for the legislative elections scheduled for August/September 1998, much still remains to be done. On 26 March 1998, an Electoral Code was adopted by the National Assembly, which

provided for the creation of an independent and mixed electoral commission (Commission electorale mixte et independante). The Code provided that the Electoral Commission would be created by a decree adopted by the Council of Ministers. However, a special committee of representatives of all recognized political parties failed to reach consensus on the text of a draft decree on the Commission. While parties of the presidential majority proposed the continuation of the system whereby the Minister of Interior would preside over the Commission, the opposition insisted on the appointment of a neutral and independent candidate.

14. Upon his arrival in Bangui, my Special Representative undertook intensive consultations aimed at finding a solution to this impasse. On 22 May 1998, President Patassé appointed Mr. Michel Adama-Tamboux, a retired ambassador and the first Speaker of the National Assembly after independence in 1960, as Chairman of the Commission. On 28 May, the decree creating the Electoral Commission was promulgated, conferring on President Patassé the power to appoint the Chairman.

15. The opposition objected strongly to the lack of due consultations on the appointment of Mr. Adama-Tamboux and the ex post facto promulgation of the relevant decree. My Special Representative made significant efforts to mediate between the parties, and convened the Monitoring and Arbitration Committee to discuss those issues. It is widely believed among international observers in Bangui that Mr. Adama-Tamboux is generally qualified for the position. However, some opposition parties remain very sceptical.

16. In a further effort to bridge divisions and promote trust among the parties, my Special Representative, in keeping with the basic law on political parties, appealed to the President to permit all registered political parties to be represented on the Electoral Commission (the initial decree had restricted representation to only the 15 parties represented in the National Assembly). President Patassé followed this recommendation and amended the decree on 5 June. Consequently, the Commission will have all 35 registered political parties represented, as well as representatives of the 16 prefectures and observers from civil society. The Electoral Commission has now been legally established, but it has not yet met, as a significant number of opposition parties, namely the Group of 11 and five other parties, have not yet agreed to join the Commission. My Special Representative will continue his efforts to reconcile the positions of the parties.

17. The three electoral experts of MINURCA have begun working with the appropriate bodies of the Central African Republic on an operational plan and draft budget and to sensitize potential donors, while the Government has also initiated some preparations for the elections. However, the difficulties affecting the Electoral Commission have prevented it from beginning its work. It is also clear that potential donors would consider contributing to the electoral exercise only after the Electoral Commission had developed a detailed operational plan and a realistic timetable for implementation.

18. On 8 June, the Minister of Interior announced President Patassé's decision to hold legislative elections on 16 and 30 August. That announcement created further complications, as the decree establishing the Electoral Commission

states that it has to be installed at least three months before the elections are to take place. Furthermore, the proposed time-frame would not allow the United Nations and other international organizations to make arrangements for the provision of the necessary assistance for the elections.

Public information

19. Shortly after its establishment, MINURCA commenced public information activities in order to disseminate information about its mandate and its activities. The press in the Central African Republic has few resources and remains weak. The dissemination of accurate, objective information must therefore be treated as a priority if reconciliation and peace are to take hold in the country. Since May, my Special Representative, assisted by the Force Commander and the Director of my Special Representative's office (the UNDP Resident Representative), has given weekly press conferences. Furthermore, the Mission still intends to launch a United Nations radio programme (see para. 38 below).

IV. MILITARY AND SECURITY ISSUES

Activities of United Nations troops

20. Since its establishment, MINURCA has assisted in maintaining the secure and stable environment established in Bangui by MISAB. Although full deployment of the military component of MINURCA has been delayed because of the last-minute withdrawal of a troop contributor, almost all military tasks laid down by resolution 1159 (1998) are being fulfilled.

21. MINURCA has made concerted efforts to increase mechanized and foot patrols in the city, particularly in troublesome areas of Bangui. Those patrols are conducted 24 hours a day. MINURCA also participates in joint patrols with elements of the Central African armed forces and security forces, thus encouraging them to take a more active part in maintaining law and order. To ensure effective coordination, MINURCA created a Joint Security Commission for Bangui comprising the United Nations Force Commander and the commanders of the Central African armed forces, the National Police and the Gendarmerie, as well as the Special Force for the Defence of Republican Institutions, which is the successor to the dissolved Presidential Guard. The United Nations troops also serve an important humanitarian role in providing emergency medical assistance to the civilian population in Bangui.

22. However, the situation in the interior of the country remains precarious, with continued reports of banditry and other serious criminal acts. Almost all Central African parties, as well as United Nations programmes and agencies operating in the Central African Republic, have repeatedly urged MINURCA to expand its area of operations beyond Bangui and its immediate vicinity. Currently, United Nations partners are paying special fees for the provision of escorts by the Central African armed forces and the Gendarmerie for missions outside the capital.

23. MINURCA has recently been conducting very limited one-day reconnaissance missions to key locations in the interior of the country to assess the situation outside Bangui in order to facilitate preparations for the elections and to formulate recommendations on a future role for the United Nations in the electoral process, as requested by the Security Council.

Restructuring of the Central African armed forces

24. As indicated in my previous report (S/1998/148), on 29 January 1998 the Commission on the Restructuring of the Defence and Security Forces, working under the overall supervision of General Touré, had recommended to President Patassé the dissolution of the security services and major downsizing and restructuring of the Presidential Guard. On 4 March, the President issued decrees implementing those recommendations. At the same time, two new entities were created: the Special Force for the Defence of Republican Institutions and the Directorate-General for State Documentation. While those steps were widely welcomed, the President's decisions to include in the new national security entity a judiciary police branch and to deploy the Special Force in the countryside were strongly criticized in the Central African Republic.

25. At the same time, no progress has been made in implementing the recommendations of the Commission concerning the creation of a national, republican and multi-ethnic army, whose size and activities would be in line with national budgetary capacity. The collapse of the chain of command and discipline and the outstanding salary arrears make the Central African armed forces, whose current strength is estimated at 3,500 personnel, a potentially destabilizing factor in the Central African Republic. The President, the Minister of Defence and his Deputy in charge of the restructuring of the armed forces, as well as some diplomatic representatives in Bangui have urged MINURCA to play a more active role in assisting in the restructuring of the Central African armed forces. It is clear that lasting stability and security in the country will depend on the transformation of the Central African defence and security forces into a professional corps dedicated to respect for the rule of law.

Disarmament, demobilization and reintegration

26. As was indicated in my previous report, almost 93 per cent of heavy weapons and nearly 58 per cent of light weapons were retrieved during the disarmament exercise carried out by MISAB together with the Central African authorities. By resolution 1159 (1998), it was decided that MINURCA should supervise, control the storage of and monitor the final disposition of those weapons. Accordingly, weapons, munitions and explosives recovered by MISAB are now being stored and guarded by MINURCA at two locations. MINURCA has also been destroying hazardous munitions collected.

27. It is expected that any new arms recovered by the authorities will be handed over to MINURCA, pending their final disposition. While the mandate of MINURCA does not foresee active participation in the disarmament exercise, the Mission responds to reports of arms caches. In that context, on 4 and 5 May MINURCA recovered a limited quantity of ammunition. There is also considerable concern over the flow of arms within the country, particularly in view of the

porous nature of the borders and the weakness of the defence and security forces.

28. The Project on Demobilization and Reintegration, funded by UNDP/United Nations Office for Project Services, envisages the demobilization of 1,000 military personnel in the context of the general restructuring of the armed forces. A project strategy document was finalized in April by UNDP, in collaboration with the Deputy Minister for Defence in charge of the restructuring of the armed forces. UNDP has created a technical committee on demobilization and reintegration. MINURCA participates in its work in order to ensure that the demobilization efforts are linked to the process of restructuring the Central African armed forces. MINURCA has recently been requested to provide security for the registration of Central African armed forces personnel and those personnel to be demobilized throughout the country.

Civilian police

29. Paragraph 10 (e) of Security Council resolution 1159 (1998) mandated MINURCA to assist in a short-term police trainers programme and in other capacity-building efforts for the National Police. The MINURCA Police Commissioner arrived in Bangui on 21 April, but the Mission has not yet achieved full operational capacity, as indicated in paragraph 5 above. In the meantime, facilities for the training programmes of the National Police trainers have been identified and work has begun on their rehabilitation. In consultation with the Government, MINURCA has also developed a plan of action, identifying key training areas and equipment needs, as well as infrastructural needs. Preliminary contacts have been initiated with donors, whose assistance in professionalizing the security forces would be indispensable.

V. ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL ASPECTS

30. The economy of the Central African Republic, which was severely damaged during the mutinies and looting of 1996, has not yet recovered. According to UNDP, despite significant natural resources, 64.4 per cent of the population live below the poverty line, with 35.5 per cent living in acute poverty. Economic and social problems are among the root causes of the crisis and should be urgently addressed by the Central African authorities in close coordination with international financial institutions and other partners. In that connection, my Special Representative has cooperated closely with all relevant entities working towards lasting reconstruction and development in the country.

31. The precipitous decline in private sector activities, which paralysed commercial life in the aftermath of the mutinies of 1996, is being reversed only gradually. It is obvious that restoration of long-term security and stability will also be crucial for the return of foreign investors. At the same time, the Government must continue to implement the necessary reform measures, which it has committed itself to undertaking, in a timely and effective manner. Those measures include increased revenue collection through greater efficiency, enhanced transparency and accountability and anti-corruption measures; regular payment of salaries of public employees and the earliest clearance of the

accumulated arrears of unpaid salaries; and fulfilment of the conditions agreed upon with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank.

32. So far, the efforts of the Government have resulted in modest macro-financial progress. Government-collected revenues have risen from 2.1 billion CFA francs per month in the first quarter of 1997 to CFAF 3.8 billion per month in the first quarter of 1998. By April 1998, the collected revenues had reached the level of CFAF 4.4 billion. However, that achievement is still far from the target of CFAF 5.5 billion to be attained by June 1998. Improved revenue collection has permitted regular monthly payment of salaries from March 1998 onwards and a modest reduction, to 10 months, in the accumulated arrears of unpaid salaries. The schedule of repayments to IMF has been kept up to date, and a revised budget was adopted by the National Assembly on 3 June.

33. In March, the IMF and World Bank reached an understanding with the Government on a medium-term programme for the 1998-2000 period that could be supported by resources from the Fund (under the Enhanced Structural Adjustment Facility) and the Bank (under an economic recovery credit). A letter of intent and a memorandum on economic and financial policies for 1998 were also negotiated by the Fund, in support of the authorities' request for the first annual structural adjustment arrangement. Further discussions were held in Washington D.C., in April on structural reform issues. The policy framework paper for 1998-2000 was prepared by IMF and the World Bank on 1 June. The authorities of the Central African Republic believe that they have met all the preconditions except in the area of privatization. They are also optimistic about the outcome of a meeting with donors, which took place in Washington, D.C., on 15 June.

34. While some progress has been made, much remains to be done in terms of reviewing the law on finance with a view to focusing on vital development sectors and public services in education and health; eradicating all non-orthodox procedures of public finance management; introducing sound and transparent management in the diamond sector to attract foreign investors and thus increase government revenues; and privatizing public enterprises. In the context of this last issue, which is an important element for the conclusion of an accord with IMF, negotiations for the privatization of the oil sector were resumed in Bangui in May with three major international oil companies. Those negotiations are continuing, and the authorities hope to reach a satisfactory understanding on the issues over the next few weeks.

35. An issue with serious humanitarian and security ramifications is the situation of the approximately 1,200 Rwandan asylum seekers, who are mostly settled in the northern parts of the country. Following violent incidents between them and the local population in March, the Government insisted that the asylum seekers be resettled in third countries and requested assistance from the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in that regard. Denmark, Norway and Sweden agreed to receive some asylum seekers. So far, only 64 have left the Central African Republic, while 200 other Rwandans are awaiting possible resettlement in third countries in Africa.

VI. ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL ASPECTS

36. The rapid establishment of the new Mission, as described in paragraph 5 above, was due to a number of factors, including the provision by France of voluntary in-kind contributions consisting of air transportation of contingents and partial waiver of the reimbursement costs for military equipment and medical services rendered to MINURCA. The UNDP office in Bangui also provided invaluable assistance enabling MINURCA to meet urgent requirements during the initial phase of the operation. The status-of-forces agreement between the Government of the Central African Republic and the United Nations was concluded on 8 May. Cooperation between the Central African authorities and MINURCA has also been facilitated by the creation of a special high-level committee, of senior Government officials (Comité interlocuteur de la MINURCA). At the same time, the Government gave critical support to MINURCA by providing Camp Béal and parts of Camp M'Poko free of charge. However, owing to lack of many essential facilities in Bangui, logistical aspects of the Mission remain a very challenging task, and much remains to be done to ensure the provision of the necessary support to all contingents.

37. On 1 June, I wrote to the Foreign Ministers of Cameroon and Gabon to request that certain immunities, privileges and facilities be granted to MINURCA, which is using those countries as important points of transit and as logistics and supply bases.

38. A trust fund for the support of the activities of MINURCA was established on 20 April pursuant to paragraph 18 of Security Council resolution 1159 (1998), in order to enable Member States to make voluntary contributions to support the activities of MINURCA. So far, no contributions to the fund have been received. At the same time, the Government of Denmark has indicated its willingness to make a voluntary contribution by providing to MINURCA frequency modulation (FM) and short-wave transmitters to enhance the Mission's public information capacity, which would be very important for United Nations efforts in the country. Following the conclusion of the MINURCA mandate, the broadcasting equipment could be used in other United Nations missions.

39. As I indicated in my report of 11 May 1998 on the financing of MINURCA (A/52/895), pending consideration by the Security Council of the present report, my proposed budget for the establishment and maintenance of MINURCA covers the period from 27 March to 30 November 1998.

40. Subject to the extension of the Mission's mandate by the Security Council beyond 15 July 1998, the budget for this period amounts to $49.6 million gross, inclusive of the estimated voluntary contribution in kind of $2.1 million from the Government of France, and provides for 1,350 military contingent personnel and 24 civilian police supported by 179 civilian staff (106 international and 73 local). A review of my budgetary proposals has been completed by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions and the Fifth Committee, and I expect the General Assembly to adopt the financing resolution shortly. Therefore, should the Security Council decide to extend the mandate of the Mission as recommended below, the cost of maintaining MINURCA during the extension period would be within my proposed budget.

41. As at 15 June 1998, the total outstanding assessed contributions for all peacekeeping operations amounted to US$ 1,530.8 million.

VII. OBSERVATIONS

42. Since the transfer of authority from MISAB to MINURCA on 15 April, MINURCA has succeeded in maintaining security and stability in Bangui, and my Special Representative has been actively promoting the reforms necessary to achieve lasting national reconciliation, peace, reconstruction and development in the Central African Republic. All Central African parties, as well as countries in the region, have welcomed the deployment of MINURCA, as they believe that without a credible external force, violence could return to Bangui. It is also widely acknowledged that the establishment of the United Nations Mission has contributed to maintaining international peace and security in the region.

43. During the reporting period, some progress has been made in implementing major reforms outlined in my previous report to the Security Council (S/1998/148). However, much more remains to be done, since the political climate in the Central African Republic remains permeated by division and distrust. National reconciliation and the security situation are still fragile. If lasting peace is to be achieved, urgent action is needed in the following priority areas: the credible restructuring of the defence and security forces, the organization of free and fair legislative elections and economic and social recovery.

44. The main responsibility for the implementation of those essential tasks lies with the Central African Government and the political parties. At the same time, it is clear that the Government and people of the Central African Republic need external assistance. In that connection, I call upon not only traditional donors, but also upon all Member States and regional organizations to provide the required assistance. Without decisive domestic efforts and external support, the country may well return to instability and serious violence.

45. It is indispensable that the Government make all possible efforts to conclude agreements with the Bretton Woods institutions to address the pressing economic and social difficulties facing the country. Particular attention must be given to meeting unpaid salary arrears as soon as possible. The donors' meeting on 15 June in Washington, D.C., was an important first step in generating the necessary external support enabling the Central African Republic to meet the goals set by the international financial institutions.

46. Equally, I call upon the Government and all other members of Central African civil society to implement in a timely manner the plans developed by the Commission on the Restructuring of the Defence and Security Forces, which were based on the recommendations developed by the General Meeting on National Defence held in September 1996 in Bangui. I wish to encourage the international community to lend its support to this important endeavour through bilateral and multilateral assistance programmes. My Special Representative would be ready to monitor and coordinate, as appropriate, such international support and to provide technical advice to donors on the restructuring needs.

47. I also strongly urge all Central African parties to reconcile their differences to allow for the urgent installation of the Electoral Commission and the development of a detailed operational plan for the elections, including a realistic implementation timetable and the allocation of funds. Only when these minimum requirements are met would I be in a position to formulate recommendations on a future role of the United Nations in the legislative elections process. In the meantime, MINURCA, working in close collaboration with UNDP, will continue to provide advice and technical assistance to all relevant electoral bodies.

48. The electoral unit of MINURCA estimates that a minimum of 90 to 100 days would be required to prepare credible elections once the Electoral Commission has been installed and critical funding has been obtained, including from the donor community. As indicated in my previous report, MINURCA could, in due course, recruit electoral observers to establish a presence throughout the country and coordinate the international assistance necessary for the successful conduct of free and fair elections. In that connection, it is clear that concerted action would be required to ensure security throughout the country for the safe conduct of the elections. In addition to the Government's measures, I could envisage the possibility of recommending the deployment of United Nations troops in some key locations outside Bangui to protect electoral observers. I will continue to review the security requirements and will revert to the issue when appropriate.

49. In the meantime, in view of the need for MINURCA to continue to assess, for electoral purposes, the situation outside of Bangui and in order to provide support to United Nations humanitarian activities throughout the country, I would recommend that the military component of MINURCA conduct reconnaissance missions and to provide security escorts of short duration outside the capital.

50. In view of the current situation in the Central African Republic as described in the present report, I recommend that the Security Council extend the mandate of MINURCA by two months, until 15 September 1998. However, should the necessary electoral preparations be made by the Central African parties before the expiration of the mandated period, I would be prepared to submit to the Council detailed recommendations on possible United Nations involvement in the electoral process.

Annex

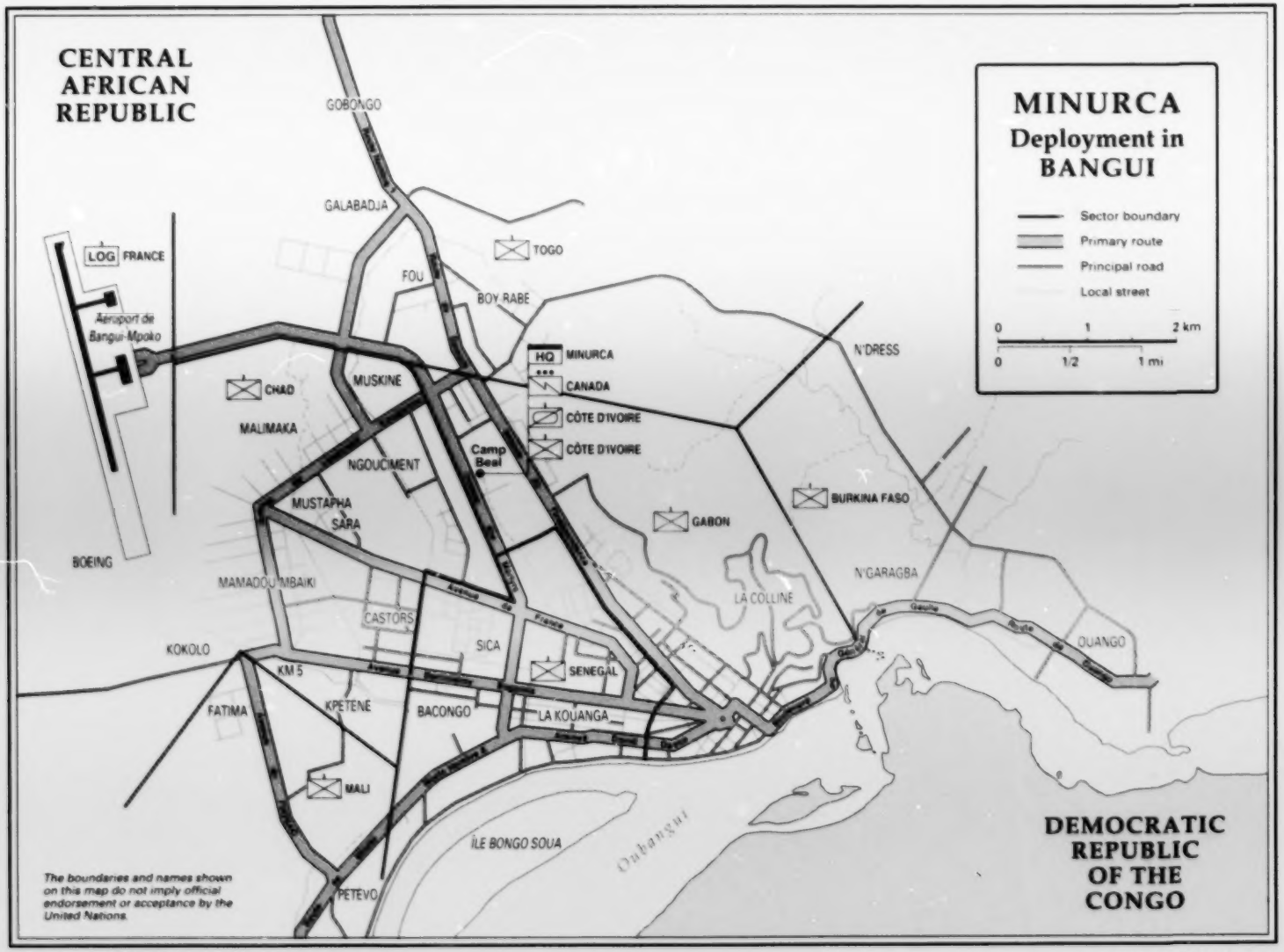
United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic: contributions as at 15 June 1998

	Staff officers	Troops	Support units	Civilian police observers	Total
Benin	-	-	-	2	2
Burkina Faso	6	120	-	-	126
Canada	4	25	-	-	29[a]
Chad	6	120	-	-	126
Côte d'Ivoire	8	210	15	-	233
France	1	-	200	-	201[a]
Gabon	8	134	-	-	142[b]
Mali	5	120	-	6	131[c]
Senegal	9	120	-	-	129
Togo	6	120	-	-	126
Total	53	969	215	8	1 245[a]

[a] The figures do not include national support elements (18 for Canada and 15 for France).

[b] In addition to the Force Commander.

[c] In addition to the Police Commissioner.



Map No. 4060 UNITED NATIONS
June 1998

Department of Public Information
Cartographic Section

UNITED
NATIONS

S

Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1998/541
19 June 1998

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 19 JUNE 1998 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF ERITREA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you a statement issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the State of Eritrea in Asmara today, 19 June 1998, concerning Ethiopia's violation of the moratorium on air strikes.

I should be grateful if you would kindly circulate the present letter and its annex as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Haile MENKERIOS
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

98-17446 (E) 190698

/...

Annex

Statement issued on 19 June 1998 by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Eritrea on the violation by Ethiopia of the moratorium on air strikes

The Government of Eritrea had accepted, on Sunday, 14 June 1998, the proposal put forward by President Clinton on the total ban of the use and threat of use of air strikes by both sides. The Government of Eritrea had accepted this proposal, which it saw "as a positive first step towards ending the war", because it did not start the air war in the first place, and all the actions that it had taken were in legitimate self-defence and a means of deterrence.

The Government of Ethiopia has, however, violated this agreement, both through its official belligerent pronouncements and its communications to commercial airlines and shipping lines. Through these threats to use air strikes in violation of its expressed commitment to the United States Government, the Government of Ethiopia is effectively maintaining the illegal blockade that it had imposed on international flights and shipping.

The efforts to de-escalate the conflict have thus been frustrated as the Government of Ethiopia continues to escalate the tension.

The Government of Eritrea has communicated these violations to the United States Government. The Government of Eritrea will await a positive response. If all efforts to persuade the Government of Ethiopia to honour its commitments on the total ban of air strikes fail and the blockade continues, however, the Government of Eritrea will have no option but to take appropriate deterrent measures.

UNITED
NATIONS

A S

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

A/52/960
S/1998/542
19 June 1998

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Fifty-second session
Agenda item 61
QUESTION OF CYPRUS

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-third year

Letter dated 19 June 1998 from the Permanent Representative of Cyprus to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to convey herewith the text of a letter dated 18 June 1998 from Mr. Glafcos Clerides, President of the Republic of Cyprus, addressed to you.

I would be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the fifty-second session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 61, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Sotirios ZACKHEOS
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

98-17459 (E) 190698

/...

ANNEX

Letter dated 18 June 1998 from the President of Cyprus addressed to the Secretary-General

I am writing you this letter in order to ask you to undertake a personal initiative along the lines of paragraphs 6 and 7 of Security Council resolution 1146 (1997) of 23 December 1997, which encourages the Secretary-General to continue to promote efforts to achieve progress in reducing military tensions.

Since December 1993, when I wrote to your predecessor outlining a detailed proposal for the total demilitarization of Cyprus, I have continuously called for a substantive discussion with the Turkish side along these lines. Last August, during the meetings held with Mr. Denktash in Glion, Switzerland, in the presence of your Special Adviser, Mr. Diego Cordovez, I submitted a non-paper (see attachment) on reducing tensions in the military field by proposing that the two sides engage in serious dialogue on resolving security matters of concern to all sides.

The Security Council, in paragraph 7 of its resolution 1146 (1997), called upon all concerned to commit themselves to a reduction in defence spending and a reduction in the number of foreign troops in the Republic of Cyprus to help restore confidence between the parties and as a first step towards the withdrawal of non-Cypriot forces as described in the set of ideas (S/24472, annex), and stressed the importance of eventual demilitarization of the Republic of Cyprus as an objective in the context of an overall comprehensive settlement. This I believe offers a sufficient framework for a comprehensive discussion aimed at a package agreement on all fundamental aspects of the security situation in Cyprus, of both a short-term and a long-term nature. As you are aware, last year your Deputy Special Representative in Cyprus, Mr. Gustave Feissel, convened two meetings between Mr. Denktash and myself with an open agenda but without, unfortunately, this effort yielding any result.

The reciprocal measures for reducing tension along the ceasefire line proposed by the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus, as well as the idea put forward by the Canadian Foreign Minister while visiting Cyprus last week for an initiative on demining of the buffer zone, would constitute a component of these discussions with immediate application.

Consequently I would like to repeat, at this point, my commitment to reconsider the issue of non-importation of new weapons systems to Cyprus provided that progress is made on a schedule which includes a number of measures and steps leading towards the eventual goal of demilitarization.

On the basis of the aforementioned Security Council resolution, I believe that the members of the Council will lend all possible support to such an undertaking. I therefore once again urge you to consider how implementation of this part of resolution 1146 (1997), also present in previous recent resolutions, may be achieved.

(Signed) Glafcos CLERIDES
President of the Republic of Cyprus

ATTACHMENT

The two leaders jointly declare the following:

(a) They denounce the use of force as a means of solving the Cyprus problem. A solemn public declaration will be made to that effect.

(b) They have agreed to work for a specific programme of reduction of foreign and local forces and equipment as a preparatory step towards the final withdrawal of all forces and elements and demilitarization as provided for by the relevant United Nations resolutions.

(c) They have agreed to negotiate a limitation of importation onto the island of military weapons and equipment, which will be implemented under United Nations supervision.

(d) They have agreed to negotiate the unmanning of military postings in close proximity, the unloading of weapons along the ceasefire lines and the adoption of a code of conduct as described in the relevant Security Council resolutions.

(e) Negotiations in respect of the above will take place in Cyprus in the presence of the Secretary-General's Deputy Special Representative. These negotiations are to begin and be completed without delay.

(f) The two leaders have also agreed on the necessity to make arrangements of a humanitarian nature for the benefit of members of both communities and consider measures which will lead to a better understanding between the two communities.

(g) To negotiate in a spirit of good will for an urgent solution of the Cyprus problem based on the principles of the Charter of the United Nations, the United Nations resolutions and decisions on Cyprus and the high-level agreements of 1977 and 1979, as well as respect for democratic principles and the fundamental human rights.

12 August 1997

UNITED NATIONS

A S

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

A/52/961
S/1998/543
19 June 1998

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Fifty-second session
Agenda item 61
QUESTION OF CYPRUS

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-third year

Identical letters dated 18 June 1998 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and to the President of the Security Council

With a letter dated 28 January 1998 (A/52/779-S/1998/81) addressed to you, my predecessor conveyed the grave concern of my Government regarding the Greek/Greek Cypriot military preparations in Cyprus.

In particular, attention was drawn to the danger posed by the construction of a military airbase and the possible deployment of Greek combat aircraft in Paphos, and to the fact that, coupled with the Greek Cypriot intention to deploy the S-300 missile system in Southern Cyprus, these actions were bringing the parties to the threshold of a crisis.

I regret to inform you that, in the past few days, Greece and the Greek Cypriot administration have taken the military steps we have warned about.

Following the completion of the military base in Paphos, four Greek fighter aircraft and a C-130 transport airplane landed there on 16 June 1998. This is the first time Greek military aircraft are being deployed in Southern Cyprus outside of a military exercise. The Greek Cypriot spokesman has stated that the Greek aircraft are using the Paphos military airbase within the framework of the "joint military doctrine" initiated in 1993 between Greece and the Greek Cypriot administration.

Turkey views this as an extremely serious and provocative development. As a guarantor Power, Turkey has protested these actions, which challenge the stability of and increase tension on the island and in the region.

In this respect, I would like to point out that no air force exists on the island and that the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus has no airbase. Therefore, the Paphos military airbase brought into service for use by the Greek

military aircraft cannot be said to have a defensive purpose. This airbase constitutes a threat to the security of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus in particular and to the equilibrium in the eastern Mediterranean in general. It cannot be viewed in isolation either. It has to be evaluated in the light of the attempts of the Greek/Greek Cypriot front to implement the so-called "joint military doctrine" through an excessive arms build-up, including the insistence, despite international protest, to deploy the S-300 missile system and the increasingly offensive nature of their military posture.

Given these developments it cannot but be perceived that the Greek/Greek Cypriot side is seriously considering resorting to the military option in Cyprus once again. It should be recalled that the Greek/Greek Cypriot side tried the military option in the years 1963, 1967 and 1974 and failed. Unfortunately, their previous failures are no guarantee that they will not resort to this method once again.

Therefore, my Government would like to ask for your intervention in preventing the attempts of the Greek/Greek Cypriot side aimed at undermining security and stability in Cyprus and in the region. I would also like to reiterate that my Government reserves the right to take the measures it deems appropriate to safeguard its own security as well as that of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus.

I would like to request that the present letter be circulated as a document of the fifty-second session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 61, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Volkan VURAL
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

UNITED
NATIONS

S

Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1998/544
19 June 1998

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 19 JUNE 1998 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF AZERBAIJAN TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of a statement adopted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Azerbaijani Republic on 19 June 1998 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Eldar KOULIEV
Permanent Representative

98-17486 (E) 190698 190698

/...

Annex

[Original: Russian]

Statement by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs
of the Azerbaijani Republic

On 17 June 1998, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Armenia, Mr. Vartan Oskanian, at a press conference during which he explained Armenia's approach to settling the conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan, mentioned the possibility of incorporating the Nagorny Karabakh region of the Azerbaijani Republic into Armenia. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Azerbaijani Republic sees this statement as an undisguised call to the international community and an unjustified attempt to dictate conditions for the settlement of the conflict to the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and to its member States co-chairing the Minsk Conference, which has been entrusted, pursuant to United Nations resolutions, with the task of reaching a comprehensive settlement of the conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan. In this connection, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Azerbaijani Republic welcomes the practical and constructive response of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation to the statement by the head of the Armenian diplomatic corps, as explained in a statement by the Director of the Department of Information and Media Relations of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, Mr. Vladimir Rakhmanin. In presenting the Russian Federation's position on this problem, the representative of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation characterized Mr. Oskanian's statement as "an act of political blackmail that will hardly contribute to an understanding between the two parties to the conflict in Nagorny Karabakh". He also pointed out that such statements would find no support in the Russian Federation or in the international community.

We believe that there is no reason why negotiations should not be resumed between the duly authorized representatives of the parties in the context of the OSCE Minsk Group. The question is not what kind of structure the negotiations should have, but rather, most importantly, the bases on which these negotiations should take place, as was also pointed out in the statement by the Director of the Department of Information and Media Relations of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation.

Such a strong reaction of principle as that of the Russian Federation to Mr. Oskanian's remarks is a positive factor that facilitates a balanced assessment of the positions of Armenia and Azerbaijan.

Accordingly, Azerbaijan feels that the failure of the three countries co-chairing the Minsk Conference to respond in any way to the counter-productive and provocative statements made by the head of the Armenian diplomatic corps could give a false impression as to the Co-Chairmen's firmness in upholding the mandatory rules of international law in their mediation efforts.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Azerbaijan has a right to expect an unequivocal reaction from the other States co-chairing the OSCE Minsk Conference

with regard to the remarks made by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Armenia, which would leave no doubt as to their intention to base their actions on the principles confirmed by the States members of OSCE at the Lisbon Summit, held in December 1996. The Azerbaijani party believes that the factors which have led to a review of the question of the structure of future negotiations - a structure which initially was not in conformity with OSCE decisions - have a very negative impact on the Co-Chairmen's efforts to move forward with the process of peacefully settling the conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan. Azerbaijan intends to demonstrate a constructive approach in the context of this process of peaceful settlement of the conflict, which it believes is the only possible approach, and requests the Co-Chairmen to accelerate their efforts to bring about positive changes in the position of the party which is blocking the progress of the Minsk process.

Baku, 19 June 1998

UNITED NATIONS **S**

Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1998/545
21 June 1998
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: ARABIC

LETTER DATED 20 JUNE 1998 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a letter dated 20 June 1998 from the Deputy Prime Minister of Iraq, Mr. Tariq Aziz, containing the observations by the Iraqi party concerning the report of the Executive Chairman of the United Nations Special Commission (UNSCOM) dated 16 June 1998 (S/1998/529) on the results of his recent visit to Baghdad.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annex distributed as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Nizar HAMDOON
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex

Letter dated 20 June 1998 from the Deputy Prime Minister of Iraq addressed to the President of the Security Council

With regard to the report of the Executive Chairman of the United Nations Special Commission (UNSCOM) dated 16 June 1998 concerning his recent visit to Baghdad (S/1998/529), I should like to make the following observations:

1. Iraq has fulfilled all its obligations with regard to disarmament in accordance with section C, paragraphs 8, 9 and 10, of Security Council resolution 687 (1991). In a spirit of cooperation, however, we have worked in a positive manner on the points put forward by UNSCOM which the Special Commission considers priority issues in the disarmament process. Mr. Butler brought to Baghdad a document setting forth a "road map", which contained general titles without indicating the relative importance of the points put forward under them or the degree of implementation. We discussed this list with him point by point, providing tangible proof that we had carried out most of them, and in discussing in a precise manner the points where concerns had been raised, we agreed on a schedule of work for the next two months.

2. The completion of the work indicated in the schedule of work will make it possible to resolve the outstanding issues raised by the Special Commission and will definitely lead to the submission by UNSCOM of its final report to the Security Council in accordance with paragraph 22 of resolution 687 (1991).

3. We hoped that the report would highlight the schedule of work, but we noted that, instead, it reflects the previous attitude of concentrating on controversial points in a manner that fails to give a balanced and objective picture of what occurred. In this regard, we should like to express our observations on what is included in some paragraphs of the report:

(a) Missiles

The report indicates that the Iraqi position concerning the missile propellants is that the issue was not essential for the disarmament process, that it could be addressed under ongoing monitoring by the Commission and that Iraq would not agree to its inclusion in any current schedule of work. However, the report does not mention the reasons for our objective and practical position, which we presented during the discussions, namely that, since the accounting for missile engines, missile launchers and the warheads was completed, the question of missile propellants loses importance and becomes a secondary issue since it is an additional element which was not of interest in itself, in addition to the fact that it did not constitute a very complex substance. Furthermore, the only problem concerning the missile propellants was the provision of documents confirming their unilateral destruction, which can be dealt with in the framework of the ongoing monitoring process;

(b) Chemical weapons

The reference in the report to the refusal by Iraq to undertake additional steps to clarify the extent of its attempts to produce the chemical warfare agent VX within the framework of its previous programme is incorrect. Iraq did not refuse to cooperate on the question of the chemical agent VX and submitted to the Commission the relevant clarifications, explanations and documents; but the Special Commission requested additional documents to prove that the production of the aforementioned chemical agent during 1990, which amounted to one and a half tonnes, had also failed, even though Iraq had submitted documents proving without any doubt that the chemical agent VX had not been produced in 1990 or 1991 in a sufficiently stable manner to be utilized within the framework of the armament programme. Iraq submitted two important documents on the question, two reports by the General Director of the facility engaged in the production of chemical agents, research, development and armament, for 1990 and the beginning of 1991, dated 15 December 1990 and 5 January 1991. We clearly demonstrated to the Special Commission that Iraq did not have any other documents on the question and that it was ready to work on the issue of the chemical agent VX within the framework of technical discussions or to participate in considering the indirect evidence contradicting the Iraqi position, which the Commission claims to have;

(c) Biological weapons

3. The Iraqi party stated that the full declaration described the true situation concerning the previous programme, which had no longer existed since 1991 and that the facts referred to in it with regard to production and armament could not be changed. For that reason, the reference in paragraph 17 of the report to the need to review again the entire declaration does not reflect what had been agreed on. The Executive Chairman of the Special Commission himself had proposed changing the method used by the Commission concerning the biological file by focusing on the material balances of the weapons, chemical agents, materials and equipment, which are essential issues with regard to the disarmament obligations under resolution 687 (1991). We have already accepted this proposal and shall work in this direction at the expanded meeting which is to be held in Baghdad on 11 July 1998 and which will continue until the question of the balances is settled.

4. What the Commission describes as concealment and which does not exist in reality is considered a problem which is unrelated to the disarmament process, but which is based on doubts raised by individual occurrences, the circumstances of which have already been fully clarified. The intensive investigations carried out by the Special Commission during the past three years have already proved that these doubts were totally unfounded. For this reason, we are surprised that the Special Commission persists in circulating these allegations and exaggerating their importance to the point of making them a priority issue within the framework of the questions relating to the disarmament process under resolution 687 (1991).

5. With regard to documents, our clearly established position, which is well known to the Special Commission, is that the submission of documents serves the interests of Iraq. Nevertheless, when there is no document, the Special

Commission should not insist and request something that does not exist. As for what is indicated in paragraph 26 concerning the refusal by Iraq to provide documents which it acknowledged having in its possession, the truth is that the documents in question are unrelated to the proscribed programmes and that they belong to one of the military units. The Special Commission examined them during an inspection, took notes on them and did not put forward information indicating that they were related to disarmament.

6. The report does not mention a very important result which Mr. Butler informed us about during the discussions that took place in the presence of the Russian, Nigerian, Venezuelan and Belgian Commissioners, namely that the samples of water, air, soil and tree leaves as well as the imprints taken at the presidential sites last March do not indicate the presence of proscribed activities or elements in those sites. This very important conclusion must be brought to the attention of the members of the Security Council in the appropriate manner.

Lastly, we hoped that the report would differ from previous reports by the Special Commission and would focus on what had been agreed on in an objective and balanced manner with a view to bringing about the implementation of paragraph 22 of resolution 687 (1991).

(Signed) Tariq AZIZ
Deputy Prime Minister

UNITED NATIONS **S**

Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1998/546
22 June 1998
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: ARABIC

LETTER DATED 20 JUNE 1998 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a letter dated 19 June 1998 from Mr. Mohammed Said Al-Sahaf, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq, concerning United States statements which affirm the continuing pattern of conspiracy and provocation against Iraq in violation of international law and the Charter of the United Nations.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Nizar HAMDOON
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

98-17605 (E) 220698 220698

/...

Annex

Letter dated 19 June 1998 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq addressed to the President of the Security Council

I should like to refer to my letter dated 22 May 1998 addressed to the President of the Security Council for the month of May 1998 concerning statements made by a former United States Assistant Secretary of Defense to the Turkish weekly Aydinlik which confirmed the political objectives of the United States and its hostile intentions towards my country.

A senior United States official, Martin Indyk, Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern and North African Affairs, has once more told a seminar for regional journalists held at the United States State Department that, with the cooperation of what he called 73 opposition groups outside Iraq, the United States is planning a new effort funded by Congress to build up political opposition to President Saddam Hussein.

On 18 June 1998, according to a report from the seminar by a Reuters news agency correspondent, Carol Giacomo, Martin Indyk told regional journalists that "we will be launching an effort to help them organize and coordinate their case against Saddam Hussein". The United States official added that "73 opposition groups have formed outside Iraq and now we're going to get behind them and try to help them". This same United States official then claimed that their agents and hired mercenaries, who would receive funding, "represent an alternative vision for Iraq to Saddam Hussein that is democratic in terms of its aspirations". Indyk added, "I don't place a high probability on their ability to overthrow Saddam, but it's important they demonstrate there is a different way of life for the Iraqi people".

The Reuters agency report, a copy of which I enclose herewith, states that the United States Congress has this year approved $5 million to fund what it calls Radio Free Iraq to broadcast programming in Arabic to Iraq. Republican members of the United States Congress also proposed spending another $33 million to fund United States intelligence agents to "overthrow the Iraqi Government".

The statements of the United States Assistant Secretary of State, Martin Indyk, who is a known Jew and Zionist, are simply an official and documented reaffirmation of the enmity of the United States Administration towards Iraq, which is a founding Member of the United Nations. They are further evidence of the violation by the United States of the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations and its failure to fulfil its responsibility under the Charter as a permanent member of the Security Council, which is responsible for maintaining international peace and security. They are also manifestly incompatible with the Security Council resolutions relevant to Iraq, all of which stress respect for its sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence.

The explicit statement of the United States official concerning the effort to fund groups of outlaws and agents for United States intelligence organizations to conspire with the United States Administration to overthrow the national regime in Iraq, an independent sovereign State, represents a dangerous

development in international relations and is a violation of the Charter of the United Nations, as well as a flagrant breach of the duties of members of the Security Council.

The Government of the Republic of Iraq brings these new statements by a United States official to the attention of the members of the Security Council and calls upon the Council to condemn the hostile and conspiratorial policy of the United States towards Iraq and to appeal to the United States Administration to halt the policy of conspiracy and incitement against a Member State and founding Member of the United Nations. It urges the Council to meet its responsibility to counter these United States official actions, which are in breach of international law and the Charter of the United Nations, as well as to take measures that will guarantee respect for Iraq's sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence and prevent the irresponsible United States Administration from continuing this criminal behaviour against Iraq.

We affirm to you that such reckless conduct on the part of the United States Administration is a sign of despair and frustration. The provocations and criminal behaviour of United States officials will be crushed and will come to nothing, as did their previous conduct, in the face of the valiant and clever people of Iraq under the historic leadership of President Saddam Hussein.

I should be grateful if you would notify the members of the Security Council of this letter and have it circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Mohammed Said AL-SAHAF
Minister for Foreign Affairs
of the Republic of Iraq

Enclosure

U.S. PLAN WOULD AID ANTI-SADDAM GROUPS

By Carol Giacomo
Reuters
18 June 1998; Page A33

A senior State Department official said yesterday that the United States, working with 73 groups outside Iraq, plans a new effort funded by Congress to build up political opposition to President Saddam Hussein.

"We will be launching an effort to help them organize and coordinate their case against Saddam Hussein," Assistant Secretary of State Martin Indyk told a seminar for regional journalists at the State Department.

Indyk, who oversees Near Eastern affairs, said the U.S. effort will go forward "in a visible and effective way," focusing on Saddam Hussein's "brutality and his war crimes" in the 1990 invasion of Kuwait, the 1991 Gulf War and its aftermath.

He said 73 opposition groups have formed outside Iraq and "now we're going to get behind them and try to help them ... They represent an alternative vision for Iraq to Saddam Hussein that is democratic in terms of its aspirations."

"I don't place a high probability on their ability to overthrow Saddam, but it's important they demonstrate there is a different way of life for the Iraqi people," Indyk added.

Congress this year approved $5 million to fund Radio Free Iraq to broadcast programming in Arabic to Iraq.

Republican lawmakers also proposed spending another $33 million to help Iraqi opposition movements overthrow the Iraqi Government and provide them with humanitarian assistance.

State Department officials said they expect to receive $5 million of that amount to underwrite their programme.

The United States had an extensive overt and covert programme of support for Kurdish groups in northern Iraq opposing the Government in Baghdad. But it collapsed in August 1996 when the Iraqi leader sent troops into the region to intervene in Kurdish factional fighting.

Since then, Washington has made episodic efforts to unite the Kurdish factions - who represent one segment of Iraq's disparate opposition - but without success.

UNITED NATIONS **S**

Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1998/547
22 June 1998
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: ARABIC

IDENTICAL LETTERS DATED 20 JUNE 1998 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL AND TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to inform you that violations of Iraq's airspace by United States aircraft continued between 1 and 15 June 1998 and that the aircraft in question carried out reconnaissance and engaged in acts of provocation, as set forth in the annex hereto.

Your intervention is requested with a view to bringing a halt to actions that, as flagrant violations of the Charter of the United Nations and of international law, pose a threat to the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Iraq.

These actions continue to alarm the civilian population and to cause serious damage to private and public property. The Republic of Iraq affirms its right to seek legal compensation for the damage being inflicted on the Iraqi people and the Iraqi State by these actions.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Nizar HAMDOON
Permanent Representative

Annex

Violations of Iraq's airspace and damage caused, 1-15 June 1998

1. In the northern region 102 sorties were flown at speeds of 600 to 900 kilometres per hour and at altitudes of 6,000 to 9,000 metres over the following cities and towns: Dohuk, Mosul, Amadiyah, Aqrah, Zakho, Irbil, Tall Afar and Rawanduz.

2. In the southern region 637 sorties were flown at speeds of 600 to 900 kilometres per hour and at altitudes of 6,000 to 9,000 metres over the following Iraqi cities and towns: Nasiriyah, Samawah, Artawi, Ushbayjah, Jalibah, Salman, Busayyah, Qurnah, Chabaish, Shinafiyah, Rumaythah, Basrah, Hayy, Shatrah, Amarah, Qal'at Sukkar, Safwan, Suq al-Shuyukh, Hamzah, Maymunah, Abu Sukhayr, Taqtaqanah, Rifa'i, Najaf, Shithathah and Ukhaydir.

3. Eight violations were committed by TR-1 reconnaissance aircraft flying at altitudes of 20,000 metres and at speeds of 600 kilometres per hour.

4. At 0940, 1000 and 1030 hours on 24 May 1998 United States aircraft violated Iraqi airspace over Umm Qasr.

5. At 0910, 0930, 0950, 1005, 1025 and 1035 hours on 25 May 1998 United States aircraft violated Iraqi airspace over Umm Qasr.

6. At 0830, 0840, 1330 and 1550 hours on 27 May 1998 United States aircraft violated Iraqi airspace over Umm Qasr.

7. At 1320 and 0324 hours on 28 and 29 May 1998 United States aircraft violated Iraqi airspace over Umm Qasr.

8. At 0900, 0957, 1005, 1100 and 1310 hours on 30 and 31 May 1998 United States aircraft violated Iraqi airspace over Umm Qasr.

9. At 1320, 1600 and 1610 hours on 5 June 1998 United States aircraft violated Iraqi airspace over Umm Qasr.

10. At 0922, 0845 and 1755 hours on 6 and 7 June 1998 United States aircraft violated Iraqi airspace over Umm Qasr.

UNITED
NATIONS

S

Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1998/548
22 June 1998
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: ARABIC

LETTER DATED 10 JUNE 1998 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE LIBYAN ARAB JAMAHIRIYA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of paragraphs 180 and 181 of the final communiqué of the Conference of Ministers for Foreign Affairs of Non-Aligned Countries, held in Cartagena, Colombia, from 18 to 20 May 1998, which refer to the dispute between the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and some Western States.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

Accept, Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

(Signed) Abuzed O. DORDA
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex

The Conference of Ministers for Foreign Affairs of Non-Aligned Countries, held in Cartagena, Colombia, from 18 to 20 May 1998, completed its work on the morning of 21 May 1998 and issued a final communiqué containing the following statements concerning the Lockerbie case:

1. The dispute between the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and some Western States

"180. The Ministers of Foreign Affairs and Heads of Delegation reconfirmed the position of the Movement, as stated in the final communiqué of the 11th Summit held in Cartagena, and expressed their concern over the absence of any response on the part of the concerned Western countries to the efforts made by regional and international organizations aimed at reaching a peaceful settlement, based on the principles of international law, and the accelerated lifting of the air embargo and the other measures imposed on Libya, pursuant to Security Council resolutions 748 (1992) and 883 (1993). They further emphasized that the escalation of force as a means of managing of relations among States constitutes a violation of the Charter of the United Nations and the principles of the Non-Aligned Movement. They reiterated their support for the proposals jointly submitted by the Organization of African Unity and the League of Arab States, and endorsed by the Summit of African heads of State and Government in its 33rd regular session held in Harare in 1997.

"181. The Ministers of Foreign Affairs and Heads of Delegation welcomed the judgments of the International Court of Justice dated 27 February 1998 stipulating that it is competent to look into the case and calls on the United Nations Security Council to immediately suspend the sanctions imposed upon Libya by Security Council resolution No. 748 (1992) and 883 (1993) until the International Court of Justice delivers a final judgment on the case referred to it in accordance with the United Nations Charter relieving the suffering of the Libyan Arab people, and in order to put back the case on its legal track. Unless the countries concerned respond to these proposals by the next periodic review in July 1998, the Ministers recommend that the 12th Summit of the Movement, emanating from article 25 of the Charter and because these sanctions are in violation of articles 27 (3), 32, 33, 36 and 94 of the Charter, adopt a resolution that would put an end to compliance with the sanctions resolutions in view of the immense harmful effects, both human and economic, they have caused the Libyan Arab people and to some peoples of the States members of the Non-Aligned Movement. In this regard, the Ministers of Foreign Affairs and Heads of Delegation have decided to establish a Ministerial Committee integrated by South Africa, Malaysia, Zimbabwe, Cuba, Laos and Burkina Faso, with the aim of following up the development of the dispute, and to exert further efforts towards the implementation of one of the alternatives, which has already been adopted by the Movement, in order to reach a prompt, peaceful and a just settlement to the dispute."

UNITED
NATIONS

S

Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1998/549
22 June 1998
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: ARABIC

LETTER DATED 10 JUNE 1998 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE LIBYAN ARAB JAMAHIRIYA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of the decision adopted by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity, which met in Ouagadougou from 8 to 10 June 1998, concerning the crisis between the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, on the one hand, and the United States of America and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, on the other.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Abuzed O. DORDA
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

98-17587 (E) 220698 220698

/...

Annex

[Original: English]

Decision on the crisis between the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and the United States of America and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

The Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity, meeting at its thirty-fourth ordinary session, in Ouagadougou from 8 to 10 June 1998,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on the dispute,

Having heard the report of the Committee of Five of the Organization of African Unity following its mission to the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and meeting with the British Foreign Secretary,

Expressing profound gratitude to the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya for the position it has adopted and the positive initiatives it has taken in order to resolve the dispute peacefully,

Welcoming the judgment announced by the International Court of Justice on 27 February 1998 confirming its competence to look into the dispute,

Welcoming also the positive response of the families of victims to the efforts aimed at the speedy settlement of the dispute,

Expressing its deep concern over the immense human and material losses to the Libyan people and nationals of other States members of the Organization of African Unity,

Expressing its regret at the lack of positive response by the United States of America and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the international and regional initiatives and efforts aimed at finding a solution to the dispute based on the principles of international law and within a framework of understanding and constructive dialogue,

1. Calls upon the Security Council to adopt a resolution on suspending the sanctions imposed on the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya under Security Council resolutions 748 (1992) of 31 March 1992 and 883 (1993) of 11 November 1993 until the International Court of Justice pronounces its verdict on the issue;

2. Decides not to comply any longer with Security Council resolutions 748 (1992) and 883 (1993) on sanctions, with effect from September 1998, if the United States of America and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland refuse that the two suspects be tried in a third neutral country, pursuant to the verdict of the International Court of Justice, by July 1998, the date on which the sanctions will be due for review, owing to the fact that the said resolutions violate Article 27, paragraph 3, Article 33 and Article 36, paragraph 3, of the Charter of the United Nations and the considerable human and

economic losses suffered by the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and a number of other African peoples as a result of the sanctions;

3. Decides on moral and religious grounds and with immediate effect that the Organization of African Unity and its members will not comply from now on with the sanctions imposed against the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya related to religious obligations, providing humanitarian emergencies or fulfilling statutory obligations of the Organization of African Unity;

4. Enjoins the Committee of Five of the Organization of African Unity to continue with its task;

5. Mandates the Secretary-General to monitor implementation of the present resolution and to submit a report thereupon to the next session of the Security Council.

UNITED
NATIONS

S

Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1998/550
22 June 1998
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: ARABIC

LETTER DATED 20 JUNE 1998 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a letter dated 17 June 1998 from Mr. Mohammed Said Al-Sahaf, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq, concerning the resolution of the Council of Arab Economic Unity of 3 June 1998, which calls for the lifting of the embargo imposed on Iraq.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Nizar HAMDOON
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex

Letter dated 17 June 1998 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq addressed to the Secretary-General

I should like to submit to you a copy of Council of Arab Economic Unity resolution 67/1078 entitled "Alleviating the suffering of the Iraqi people", which was adopted by the Council at its sixty-seventh session, held in Cairo from 3 to 4 June 1998; this resolution calls for the lifting of the embargo imposed on Iraq for more than eight years, as Iraq has fulfilled its obligations in full, and lifting the embargo would have a positive effect on the Iraqi people, as well as on the strengthening of Arab economic integration.

You are undoubtedly aware of the extent of the serious and daily worsening effects of the continuing comprehensive embargo imposed on Iraq. These effects are reflected in the human suffering of the Iraqi people, particularly children, women and the aged, suffering to which the whole world stands witness. The embargo has also halted Iraq's development process, as it has been prevented from rebuilding its economic and developmental infrastructure, which was completely destroyed as a result of the war and the long years of embargo.

The resolution of the Council of Arab Economic Unity clearly expresses what is a tangible fact for the Arab States in particular, namely, that the embargo includes not only Iraq, but also directly affects Arab economic integration, as Iraq constitutes an essential element of joint Arab action for development and progress.

The continuing embargo and the impeded development process in Iraq and the Arab nation as a whole are manifestly incompatible with all international customs and instruments and with the clearly stated purposes of the Charter of the United Nations. They are also incompatible with the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, as article 1, paragraph 2, of the Covenant affirms that "All peoples may, for their own ends, freely dispose of their natural wealth and resources without prejudice to any obligations arising out of international economic cooperation, based upon the principle of mutual benefit, and international law. In no case may a people be deprived of its own means of subsistence."

The continuing imposition of the no-fly zones, which was rejected by the resolution of the Council of Arab Economic Unity, is a flagrant breach of the provisions of international law and the Charter of the United Nations, as it represents the use of armed force against Iraq's sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence. Furthermore, this hostile action, which has no legal basis and which is not covered by any of the resolutions on Iraq adopted by the Security Council, is a unilateral measure that the United States has attempted to portray as being authorized by the United Nations.

Day after day, events prove that the determination of the United States to impose the no-fly zones and maintain the unjust embargo imposed on Iraq is a blatant intervention in the internal affairs of Iraq and a desperate attempt to impose its will and control over Iraq and the entire region.

The resolution of the Council of Arab Economic Unity shows the Arab rejection of such a measure, which constitutes a dangerous precedent in international relations and undermines the credibility of the United Nations, as well as its status worldwide.

Through you, Iraq calls upon the United Nations to act with responsibility emanating from the principles of its Charter and the rules of international law with a view to lifting the comprehensive embargo against the people of Iraq and halting all behaviour and actions which violate Iraq's sovereignty, airspace and territory and which are manifestly incompatible with the Charter of the United Nations.

I request the circulation of this document and its annex as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Mohammed Said AL-SAHAF
Minister for Foreign Affairs
of the Republic of Iraq

Enclosure

Resolution 67/1078 of 3 June 1998

General policies

2. Alleviating the suffering of the Iraqi people

The Council of Arab Economic Unity,

Having considered Council resolution 54/959 of 5 December 1991, resolution 59/1000 of 7 September 1994, resolution 60/1010 of 4 December 1994, resolution 61/1019 of 7 June 1995, resolution 62/1029 of 6 December 1995, resolution 63/1033 of 5 June 1996, resolution 64/1042 of 4 December 1996, resolution 65/1053 of 4 June 1997 and resolution 66/1065 of 2 December 1997,

And the decision of the Committee of Delegates of Permanent Representatives (as a preparatory committee) at its meeting in Cairo on 2 June 1998,

HAS DECIDED

1. To affirm the previous resolutions of the Council and to call for the lifting of the embargo imposed on the Republic of Iraq for over eight years, as lifting the embargo would have a positive effect on the Arab Iraqi people and on the strengthening of Arab economic integration and would alleviate the suffering of our brother Iraqi people, who are enduring material, human and moral harm as a result of this embargo;

2. To call for the immediate implementation of paragraph 22 of Security Council resolution 687 (1991) and the lifting of the comprehensive embargo against Iraq, since it has fulfilled its obligations in full;

3. To reject the no-fly zones imposed on areas of Iraq, as their imposition violates the rules of international law and has serious and adverse repercussions on the economic and social situation of the Iraqi people;

4. To affirm the call of the Arab States for the adoption of appropriate measures to increase commercial dealings with Iraq that will inevitably help to alleviate the effects of the embargo;

5. To request the Secretary-General to instruct the Council to monitor implementation of its resolutions by Member States and submit a report on the subject to the Council at its next session.

UNITED
NATIONS

S

Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1998/551
22 June 1998

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 22 JUNE 1998 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF ETHIOPIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to transmit to you a press release issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia on 19 June 1998 concerning Eritrea's rejection of the peace effort by the delegation of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) Heads of State and Government, undertaken in accordance with the decision of the thirty-fourth ordinary session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity, held in Ouagadougou.

I would be grateful if you could kindly circulate the present letter and its annex as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Duri MOHAMMED
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex

Press release issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ethiopia on 19 June 1998

Organization of African Unity delegation fails to convince the Eritrean authorities

After conducting extensive discussions with Prime Minister Meles Zenawi and with President Essayas Afeworki on 18 June 1998 in Addis Ababa and Asmara, and after convening a second and concluding session today here in Addis Ababa, the envoys have departed to their respective countries.

Pursuant to the decision of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) endorsing the proposal of the facilitators, a delegation of Heads of State and Government lead by President Blais Compaore of Burkina Faso and the current Chairman of OAU has visited both Ethiopia and Eritrea. The Government of Ethiopia reiterated to the delegation of the OAU its unwavering commitment to the proposal of the facilitators, underscoring in no uncertain terms that the only viable path to a peaceful resolution of the crisis was for the Government of Eritrea to reciprocate by showing the same commitment and declaring unequivocally its acceptance of the proposal of the facilitators.

However, according to the press release issued by the OAU Information Division today, 19 June 1998:

> "In the course of its discussions with both parties, the Ethiopian side reiterated its acceptance of the proposals of the facilitators. The Eritrean side stated clearly that the facilitation was over. From this point of view, therefore, the delegation was not able, at this juncture, to make headway with respect to the facilitators' recommendation."

The crux of the matter is, therefore, for the Eritrean leadership to undo their invasion by withdrawing their forces, an action that will pave the way for addressing all issues, including delimitation and demarcation of the boundary as well as demilitarization of the border areas.

However, it is indeed regrettable that the Government of Eritrea still persists with its intransigence. This has clearly demonstrated to the OAU delegation its well-known attitude of evading the real and fundamental issue of the restoration of the status quo ante, which is the condition clearly established in the proposal of the facilitators for the resolution of all other issues.

By rejecting the OAU summit decision, the Eritrean leadership has once again demonstrated its utter defiance and contempt for African leaders and their collective decision. The genuine desire of African leaders to resolve the issue peacefully and their expressed concern was viewed with all seriousness on the part of the Ethiopian leadership. The response on the part of Eritrea leadership, regrettably, was one of deceit and prevarication.

Given the intransigent and inflexible position on the part of the Government of Eritrea and given its latest rejection of the decision of the OAU summit, the chance of resolving the crisis by peaceful means has been greatly diminished.

UNITED NATIONS **S**

Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1998/552
22 June 1998

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 22 JUNE 1998 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF ETHIOPIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to refer to the letter addressed to you on 18 June 1998 from the Permanent Representative of Eritrea to the United Nations and to its annex, a statement by the Ministry of Information and Culture of Eritrea, issued on 17 June 1998 (S/1998/536).

The Eritrean authorities, while continuing their occupation of Ethiopian territory, and having rejected the proposal of the facilitators and the recent peace effort by the delegation of African Heads of State and Government undertaken with a mandate from the thirty-fourth session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity, are, once again, attempting, in the above-mentioned letter, to deceive the international community and to divert attention from the crimes they have committed, and continue to commit, against the Ethiopian civilian population, including schoolchildren and facilities, such as schools and industrial and residential centres.

Ethiopia is at present trying to address the various implications of the aggression carried out on its territory by a Government and a leadership which has no moral scruples and which has no respect whatsoever for principles of international and humanitarian laws. Moreover, the Eritrean Government is known for its mendacity and for trying to cover its crimes by hiding behind accusations made against others for crimes it continues to commit with such abandon and with an absolute lack of decency and civility.

In short, Ethiopia is forced to deal with a Government which is absolutely beyond the pale with regard to all standards that Governments are expected to uphold, whether in the diplomatic area or the political sphere, and with respect to compliance with international law and humanitarian principles.

While the foregoing is a rough outline of the challenges my Government is facing today in connection with the Eritrean aggression, it has also become necessary for us to inform you about the situation as regards the conditions of Eritrean civilians residing in Ethiopia, as well as the crimes being committed in Eritrea against Ethiopian residents in Eritrea.

Accordingly, it is my honour to enclose herewith a document prepared by the Ethiopian Government on these issues, as well as on related matters which highlight the various unfriendly and hostile acts being perpetrated by the Eritrean authorities against Ethiopia.

I should be grateful if you would kindly circulate the present letter and its annex as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Duri MOHAMMED
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex

Document prepared by the Government of Ethiopia

The Eritrean regime has neither the moral nor the political standing to talk about human rights and humanitarian principles

The Eritrean regime has continued to launch unfounded allegations against Ethiopia for expelling en masse Eritrean civilians residing in Ethiopia.

In the light of the above attempt to distort the facts, the Government of Ethiopia is duty-bound to put once again the issue in its proper perspective and bring the truth to the attention of the international community at large and relevant international organizations mandated to look into issues of this nature, in particular:

1. The Eritrean regime, which has no track record on the respect of basic human rights and freedoms, and which has declared officially at the highest political level that war has no rules and that indiscriminate killing of civilians is inevitable and justifiable, has no moral ground to talk about violation of human rights.

2. Ever since the Eritrean regime unleashed the unprovoked aggression against Ethiopia, the Eritrean forces have deliberately chosen to strike at civilian targets. In this regard, the bombing of an elementary school by the Eritrean Air Force in the city of Mekelle in broad daylight while students were in their classrooms, killing 51 and wounding 136, is a brutal act prohibited under general international humanitarian law, particularly under the Geneva Conventions and the two Additional Protocols which protect civilians during armed conflicts. There is no question that the air strike at the elementary school was a premeditated attack carried out twice within a difference of two hours.

3. This act of indiscriminate killing of civilians was repeated on 11 June 1998 in Adigrat, where civilians and relief food supply stores were targeted, killing 4, and wounding 30 civilians, including an 18-month-old baby and a pregnant woman. These victims were the same people previously displaced by the aggressor force from the border town of Zalambessa.

4. The targeting of civilians and social and economic infrastructures is not something unprecedented for the Eritrean regime. The Eritrean aggression started on 12 May 1998 with the destruction of schools, health stations and other infrastructures in the locality of Badme. This has left the entire population of Badme and its environs with no health services and educational facilities. Thousands were displaced and left homeless and are now sheltered in relief centres.

5. In the first week of June, for no reason except to cause destruction, the Eritrean regime indiscriminately shelled and completely destroyed the Ethiopian town of Zalambessa. Its residents, over fifteen thousand (15,000),

were compelled to flee to Adigrat, where they were mercilessly bombed again a week later.

6. The Eritrean regime has not limited its indiscriminate attack on civilians to northern Ethiopia. It has continued to unleash a campaign of terror against peaceful Ethiopians residing in Eritrea. The Eritrean authorities have been detaining thousands of Ethiopians in camps, while dumping many others on the common border of the two countries. The Eritrean forces have brutally expelled well over 4,000 Ethiopian civilians from Eritrea after depriving them of their property and subjecting many of them to beatings and torture.

7. Presently, about 600 Ethiopians are imprisoned without access to their families, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and journalists, and continue to be exposed to the worst form of torture, atrocities and inhuman treatment.

8. The parading of an Ethiopian prisoner of war in the streets of Asmara on 6 June 1998 is only one example of the acts of brutality that is characteristic of the regime's behaviour from the outset.

9. As the result of this naked and blatant aggression of the regime, the number of displaced persons has now reached 143,000 and it is expected that this number will reach 300,000.

10. On the contrary, the Ethiopian Government's reaction to the unprovoked aggression by the Eritrean regime was based on the cardinal principles of international law and relevant conventions. The Ethiopian Government, even weeks after the aggression was committed by the invading forces, has not responded in kind and has exercised maximum restraint, even though it was fully justified to do so under international law. The defensive air strike by the Ethiopian Air Force was targeted only on military installations at the Eritrean Air Force base in Asmara. As far as the ground war is concerned, Ethiopia continued to defend its territory from further encroachment by Eritrean forces. Moreover, it has treated prisoners of war (POWs) taken as the result of the military engagement with Eritrean forces in the most humane way. The ICRC and other concerned agencies have full access to visit Eritrean POWs.

11. Furthermore, the policy of the Ethiopian Government towards Eritreans residing in Ethiopia is based on the solid principle of friendship and a bond of common destiny. Even in the face of naked aggression and continuous provocation by the Eritrean regime, the Ethiopian Government is totally committed to respect the rights of Eritreans living in its territory and fully guarantees them to live and work in peace. Under no circumstances will the Ethiopian Government succumb to a tit-for-tat exercise with the Eritrean regime in the treatment of civilians in conflict situations.

12. However, the Government of Ethiopia, as a victim of aggression, has taken the following precautionary measures regarding some Eritreans and Eritrean organizations in Ethiopia out of national security considerations:

- Eritreans who occupy senior positions in some government and other public institutions have been asked to take a one-month forced leave with their salaries paid in full. The measure affects mainly employees at security sensitive installations, such as telecommunications, aviation, power generation, etc.;

- Officials and functionaries of the Eritrean People's Liberation Front (EPLF) in Ethiopia are required to leave the country. However, their dependants are given the choice of staying in the country, if they so wish;

- Those Eritrean individuals who have been engaged in mobilizing resources to finance the Eritrean war of aggression against Ethiopia, and involved in espionage and other clandestine activities, are also required to leave Ethiopia, even though the Ethiopian Government has a legitimate right to take legal action against them. However, no confiscation measures have been taken against their property and they are allowed to nominate an agent/agents to look after their interests. Their dependants are also given the choice of staying in Ethiopia if they wish to do so;

- About 1,000 former EPLF combatants and conscripts who entered Ethiopia taking advantage of the visa liberalization policy, are also temporarily detained, as they pose a threat to national security and peace. After the necessary investigation, these individuals will be allowed to leave to any country of their choice.

13. As the Eritrean Government recently disclosed through its Embassy in Addis Ababa, about 130,000 Eritreans are known to reside in different parts of Ethiopia. Nevertheless, the above precautionary measures taken on the basis of national security and peace considerations affected only 1,045 Eritreans. Moreover, these measures have been executed with all the necessary care and in full observance of relevant international laws and norms.

14. Those Eritrean citizens who by virtue of this decision are required to leave Ethiopia have been accompanied to the border town of Humera with the utmost care for their comfort, safety and security and in the presence of the Red Cross Representative.

15. Furthermore, the Ethiopian Government has allowed free access to ICRC, journalists, other concerned organizations and to their families to visit all those Eritreans under temporary detention or who were put in transit camps before deportation.

16. Thus the Government of Ethiopia would like to underscore, that the Eritrean Government has neither the moral nor the political standing to accuse Ethiopia of violating the basic human rights of Eritreans currently residing in Ethiopia. It is the Eritrean regime which is solely responsible for committing gross and flagrant violation of basic human rights and freedoms and principles of international humanitarian law. And yet it has the audacity to accuse Ethiopia of human rights violations. This behaviour is indeed a glaring demonstration of an exercise in hypocrisy.

17. The Government of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia believes that the United Nations, regional organizations and their member States have legal, political as well as moral responsibility to take all measures with a view to preventing the Eritrean aggressor from further grave breaches of international law.

18. To this end, the Government of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia calls upon the international community:

- To secure unhindered access for human rights organizations and humanitarian agencies to areas where Ethiopian nationals have been arbitrarily detained, so that steps can be taken to locate and bring them to areas where their personal safety and security can be assured and secure their unconditional release;

- Ensure the unconditional return of the properties of Ethiopian civilians and businessmen confiscated and robbed by the Eritrean regime;

- To put pressure on the Eritrean Government to abide by the principles of the 1949 Geneva Conventions and the Additional Protocols which are generally recognized norms of international law.

19. And further calls upon:

- The United Nations Development Programme, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the United Nations Department of Humanitarian Affairs and other United Nations system agencies to make a coordinated response in supporting the thousands of internally displaced persons and those Ethiopian civilians forcefully evicted from Eritrea;

- International human rights organizations in particular the United Nations Human Rights Commission to investigate and make public the continuing arrests, harassment, intimidation, torture, arbitrary killings and disappearances of Ethiopian nationals.

In conclusion, regardless of the inhuman and criminal acts of the Eritrean regime targeting civilians and civilian installations and the maltreatment of Ethiopian nationals in Eritrea, the Ethiopian Government assures the international community that, in exercising its right of self-defence, it remains committed to live up to international standards and norms as well as in the treatment of Eritrean civilians peacefully residing in Ethiopia.

Appendix

Short synopsis of the loss of life, population displacement and destruction of property caused by the unprovoked Eritrean aggression against Ethiopia since May 1998

1. Badme, Shiraro and surrounding localities

12 May	-	20 people were killed, a further 20 were wounded and 370 people were displaced.
13 May-4 June	-	23 social facilities, comprising 12 elementary schools, 9 health posts and 2 clinics, were destroyed;
	-	30 Ethiopians were kidnapped, 8 others were jailed, and 3 civilians were publicly executed;
	-	1,800 quintals of agricultural inputs and grain stored to be distributed to draught victims in the area, thousands of domestic animals, construction materials worth around 100,000 birr and other properties were looted;
	-	Work on 18 boreholes expected to benefit more than 10,000 people was disrupted.

2. Makale town

5 June	-	The Eritrean war planes, targeting primarily civilian targets, killed 51 people, wounding 136 others aged between 5 and 70. The victims of the raids were students in school compounds and families who happened to be in the vicinity looking for their children.

3. Adigrat town

11 June	-	The Eritrean war planes unleashed a second air attack on civilian establishments. As a result of this attack, 4 persons were killed and over 30 others were wounded, while a warehouse of the Commission for Disaster Prevention and Preparedness was seriously damaged and relief supplies (20 thousand quintals of grain and 13,500 litres of edible oil), which were meant for displaced civilians from battle zones, were destroyed.

4. Asmara and its environs

9 June - The Eritrean Security forces evicted over 3,000 Ethiopian civilians and detained about 600 others, confiscating their property, including personal belongings and inflicting inhuman sufferings. Many of them were deported through a hostile territory across the common border in an inhuman manner.

5. Assab

9 June - More than 1,000 Ethiopians who were evicted from Assab were subjected to the worst form of torture and inhuman treatment.

6. Other parts of Eritrea (Dekemehari, Senafe, Adikei, Massawa, Umahajjer and Tesseney)

11 June - Another group of Ethiopians numbering more than 180 were subjected to the same type of inhuman treatment and deported to Ethiopia.

7. Dislocation of Ethiopian population

As a result of this naked and blatant Eritrean aggression the number of the displaced persons has now reached 143,000 and it is expected that this number will reach 300,000.

8. Illegal detention of shipments destined to Ethiopia at the Ports of Assab and Massawa

In contravention of the principles laid down under articles 2 and 10 of the Convention on Transit Trade of Land-locked States, 8 July 1985, and the provisions related with the access of landlocked States to and from the sea and freedom of transit under Part X (Arts. 124-132) of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, as well as terms of the Bilateral Agreement on Transit and Port Services signed between Ethiopia and Eritrea on 29 September 1993, the Eritrean authorities have detained a total of more than 135 thousand tons of dry cargo, 46,741 metric cube of liquid cargo and 51 metric tons of asphalt without any legal ground at the Eritrean Ports of Massawa and Assab. These are good destined for relief and civilian projects designed to address the basic needs of the people.

This short list of crimes committed by the Eritrean aggressor against defenceless civilians, including women and children cannot be mistaken for border disputes. These are crimes against humanity that the international community must denounce and condemn without hesitation.